

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment the Abstract is rewritten to be in more proper format under United States practice.

Further, substitute Figs. 1-17 are presented herewith. Substitute Figs. 1-17 correspond to original Figs. 1-17, but address the objection to the original figures noted in the outstanding Office Action.

Claims 1-92 are pending in this application. Claims 56-92 are added by the present response. Claims 1-48 and 50-55 were objected to because of informalities. Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,527,343 to Tada et al. (herein “Tada”). Claims 1-48 and 50-55 were allowed over the prior art of record.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowance of claims 1-48 and 50-55.

Addressing first the objection to claims 1-48 and 50-55, that objection is traversed by the present response. More particularly, the above-noted claims are amended by the present response to address the objections noted on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. The claim amendments are not believed to raise any issues of new matter.

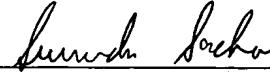
Addressing now the rejection of claim 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tada, that rejection is obviated by the present response as claim 49 is amended by the present response to now depend from allowable claim 34.

The present response also adds new claims 56-92 for examination. New claims 56-92 correspond to claims 13-49, respectively, except that new claims 56-92 do not recite any element with “means plus function” language. New claims 56-92 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as respective claims 13-49.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include formal Figs. 1-17. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-17, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-17.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets